

*The following was sent to KYAE listserv.*

October 29, 2015



## **GEDWorks™ Program Announcement**

**Please review the information released today by GED Testing Service® (see below). This is a great opportunity for employees of your local Taco Bell and KFC restaurants, as well as your local Walmart stores – and we are hopeful this will boost excitement about taking the GED® test.**

**We encourage you to reach out to management at your local participating establishments and let them know that your local adult education center is prepared to assist their qualified employees!**

**Please let Missy Brownson know if you need any help with messaging or materials for this effort by contacting her by email at [missy.brownson@ky.gov](mailto:missy.brownson@ky.gov) or calling her at 502-573-5114, ext. 123.**

### **From the Desk of Randy Trask, GED Testing Service® President:**

Greetings from GED Testing Service®. I have exciting news to share with you about the employer program we've mentioned at a high level over the past couple of months. Now that [GEDWorks™](#) is running at full speed and we have the consent of the founding employers involved in the program, I can share with you the details of the program. Walmart, KFC, Taco Bell and Southeastern Grocers are partnering with GED Testing Service® to create a comprehensive program free for employees who want to earn their GED® credential.

The GEDWorks™ program includes everything an employee needs to successfully prepare for and pass the GED® test. Students are provided access to a GED® Advisor, online GED® study material, connections to local adult education programs, practice tests, GED® tests and more. GED® Advisors are a key element of GEDWorks™. They help guide, engage, and motivate students. Currently GED® Advisors connect students to local adult education programs if they prefer a traditional classroom/in-person experience or would do better with additional in-person support. Some GEDWorks™ participants are attending adult ed programs, and as the program matures we'll be working with you to find more ways to support adult learner employees and build even more strategic connections and touch points with local ABE programs.

This marks the **first time** national employers have banded together to support a program aimed solely at decreasing the number of adults without a high school diploma, an important step in improving the country's economic competitiveness. This is a significant first step in building connections between employers and adult education. These connections—and the support of employers—will be absolutely essential in meeting the workforce development needs of our states, and to prepare for the new realities of WIOA implementation.

GEDWorks™ will immediately open the door to adult education and better long-term job and wage prospects for thousands of adult learners across the country. Take, for example, an employee from a Florida Walmart. In high school, she made it through her junior year and participated in a dual enrollment program with a local college. But when her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer, the young woman dropped out of school to find a job and help care for her mother. That woman is now pursuing her GED® credential through GEDWorks™ and plans to earn a degree in computer engineering—the degree she wanted to pursue eight years ago when she dropped out of high school. Earning her GED® credential will allow this adult learner a chance to follow a dream that until this point has been unreachable.

Employers are investing in this national program with GED Testing Service® to boost the education levels of their employees because they recognize the benefits of the GED® program and the importance of education in the lives of their employees. The program offers a cost-effective way for employers to help adult learners achieve their goals and invest in their futures. GEDWorks™ is a strong indicator that

national employers understand the value of the new GED® program, which is focused on better preparing learners to compete in today's job market and to successfully enter career and college training programs essential in today's economy.

I hope that you are as excited about the potential of this program as I am. We expect more adult learners to enter the program and the adult education pipeline, and more employers to join GEDWorks™ as the program picks up momentum. I encourage you to share information about GEDWorks™ with your state's testing and adult education professionals.

For more information and materials about GEDWorks™, visit <http://gedtestingservice.com/gedworks-media-kit>. And, please send any specific questions about the program to your State Relationship Manager or to CT Turner ([ct.turner@GEDtestingservice.com](mailto:ct.turner@GEDtestingservice.com)).

Sincerely,

*Randy Trask*  
*President, GED Testing Service®*